Claims:

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for constraining a users graphical software application to run within a specified portion of the screen, comprising:

a graphical user interface accessible by the user;

a software application interacting with the graphical user interface and having a display window;

means for specifying a container portion of the screen display to be used for the software application;

means for detecting whether the window display of the software application exceeds the boundaries of the container portion of the screen; and,

means for adjusting the window display of the software application so that it remains within the container portion of the screen.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the container portion is set by default to fill the entire screen

3.   The system of claim 1 wherein a GetSystemMetrics() function determines the actual size of the computer users' screen and uses this information to determine the container portion.

4.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a location determination processor for determining whether the users' computer system is running in a school mode or a home mode.

5.   The system of claim 4 wherein, in a school mode, the system can be set to be more restrictive, and in particular the container area may be set to a smaller portion of the screen, and wherein in a home mode, the container may be set to extend a larger area.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein a container process installs a series of software hooks into the software application interacting with the graphical user interface to trap all attempts or signals to use the mouse or keyboard within the graphical interface.

7.   A method of constraining a windowed graphical application to operate within the confines of a specified area of the users screen in a graphical computer environment, comprising:

specifying a container area within the displayed portion of the screen in which the application should operate;

allowing a user to resize the window of a graphical application; and,

monitoring the graphical application window as it is being resized to determine its present extent, and if it extends beyond the container area automatically resizing the graphical application window to be bounded within the container area.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the container portion is set by default to fill the entire screen

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein a GetSystemMetrics() function determines the actual size of the computer users' screen and uses this information to determine the container portion.

10.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

determining whether the users' computer system is running in a school mode or a home mode.

5   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein, in a school mode, the system can be set to be more restrictive, and in particular the container area may be set to a smaller portion of the screen, and wherein in a home mode, the container may be set to extend a larger area.

10   12.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

installing a series of software hooks into the software application interacting with the graphical user interface to trap all attempts or signals to use the mouse or keyboard within the graphical interface.